

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10

OMB-01 /066 W

-----100947Z 121195 /15

R 100853Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4677

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS DEFENDS MINDANAO SETTLEMENT

REF: MANILA 373 (NOTAL)

1. PORTION OF PRESIDENT'S JAN 7 SPEECH (REFTEL) WHICH DEALT WITH MINDANAO SETTLEMENT REVEALED NO ADDITIONAL FACTS BUT WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS CONSISTENTLY DEFENSIVE TONE. PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT SETTLEMENT DOES NOT ENTAIL EITHER VIOLATION OR AMENDMENT OF PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AND SAID IT WAS "UNFAIR" TO CHARGE THAT ANY PARTY TO TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS HAD SUCH AMENDMENT IN MIND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF "NUMBER OF INQUIRIES" BY TELEGRAM AND LETTER ABOUT NATURE OF AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING BY BOTH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS. ON SENSITIVE POINT OF LOCAL ARMED FORCE, PRESIDENT SAID IT WOULD BE "AN INTERNAL POLICE FORCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENDED SOLELY TO KEEP LOCAL PEACE AND ORDER, AND COMING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDENT..." THE MNLF, HE CONCLUDED, "HAS ABANDONED SECESSIONISM AND JOINED US IN THE CAUSE OF ENSURING THE PROGRESS AND STABILITY OF THE MINDANAO REGION."

2. GUIDED PRESS OF JAN 10 OBSERVES THAT MINDANAO SETTLEMENT, AS WELL AS US BASES NEGOTIATIONS, WILL BE DISCUSSED AT BATASAN BAYAN SESSION SOME TIME AFTTER NEXT ROUND OF TRIPOLI TALKS BEGINNING FEB 5.

3. COMMENT: MARCOS' DEFENSIVE TONE IS FAIR GAUGE OF CONCERNED REACTION TO MINDANAO SETTLEMENT FROM MANY IF NOT MOST MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN ESTABLISHMENT. IN CONVERSATION AT AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION JAN 7, ONE FORMER SENATOR (WHO IN GENERAL NOT NOTED FOR ANTI-REGIME VIEWS) DESCRIBED IT AS " STUPIDEST THING THAT MARCOS HAS EVER DONE." IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FEEBLE DOMESTIC "LEGAL" OPPOSITION (DIOKNO, SALONGA ET AL) MAY TRY TO EXPLOIT SUCH SENTIMENT IN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT MARCOS. WHILE WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST SUCH CRITICISM, HE COULD WELL REACT BY WATERING DOWN AGREEMENT (USING SUCH DEVICES AT PLEBISCITE, SUBMISSION TO BATASAN BAYAN, ETC.) TO POINT WHERE IT BECOMES OBVIOUS THAT GOP IS GIVING AWAY LITTLE OR NOTHING AND AGREEMENT BECOMES UNACCEPTABLE TO MUSLIMS. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770167/aaaacgin.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: c6f4b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS DEFENDS MINDANAO SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PINT, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
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Type: TE
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